The Eighteenth
National African American Read-In

Sponsored by the Black Caucus of NCTE/4Cs

Sunday, February 4, 2007

Monday, February 5, 2007
(For Schools)

The following list contains selected works recommended by Black Caucus members. There are many other books by African Americans which we encourage you to read; this is a starter list and not intended to be all inclusive of other excellent works by African Americans. Join in and continue to enrich your lives after February by reading books by African Americans.

Dr. Sandra E. Gibbs, NCTE Contact
Senior Program Officer
National Council of Teachers of English
1111 West Kenyon Road
Urbana, IL 61801

Dr. Jerrie Cobb Scott, National Contact
University of Memphis
College of Education
ICL-320-C Ball Hall
Memphis, TN 38152
# Selected “Must Read” Books
## by African American Authors

**Recommended by Black Caucus Members**  
**Compiled by Sandra E. Gibbs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AUTHOR</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
<pre><code>                               | History                                                                                  |
</code></pre>
<p>| Angelou, Maya           | <em>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</em>, Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1983. Autobiography (Plus any of her other works.) |
| Bambara, Toni Cade      | <em>Those Bones Are Not My Child</em>, Pantheon Books, 1999. Fiction (Plus any of her other works.) |</p>

**Out of print. Check at your local library.**

Barboza, Steven (ed.)


Barksdale, Richard


Bates, Karen Grigsby

Basic Black: Home Training for Modern Times,
Doubleday, 1996. Essays

& Karen Elyse Hudson


Beals, Melba Pattilo


Bell, Derrick

Confronting Authority: Reflections Of An Ardent Protester, Beacon Press, 1994. Essays (Plus any of his other works.)

Bell-Scott, Patricia (et.al.)


Bennett, Lerone


Benson, Christopher


& Mamie Till-Mobley

Bland, Eleanor Taylor (ed.)


Bogle, Donald


Bontemps, Arna

American Negro Poetry, 1982. Poetry (Plus any of his other works.)*

Bontemps, Arna


& Langston Hughes

**Out of print. Check at your local library.**
Boyd, Valerie  

Briscoe, Connie  

Brooks, Gwendolyn  


*Selected Poems*, HarperCollins, 1982. (Plus any of her other works.)

Brown, Elaine  

Brown, Sterling A.  

Busby, Margaret (ed.)  

Butler, Octavia  
*Parable of the Talents*, Seven Stories Press, 1998. Fiction

*Parable of the Sower*, Four Walls Eight Windows, 1993. Futuristic


Campbell, Bebe Moore  


**Out of print. Check at your local library.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher/Press</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carmichael, Stokely</td>
<td>Ready for Revolution: The Life and Struggles of Stokely Carmichael</td>
<td>Scribner</td>
<td>2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carroll, Rebecca</td>
<td>Swing Low: Black Men Writing</td>
<td>Carol Southern Press</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Interviews</td>
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<td></td>
<td>I Know What the Red Clay Looks Like: The Voice and Vision of Black Women Writers</td>
<td>Carol Southern Press</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carter, Stephen L.</td>
<td>The Emperor of Ocean Park</td>
<td>Alfred Knopf</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chambers, Veronica</td>
<td>Mama’s Girl</td>
<td>Riverhead Press</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Memoir</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chase-Riboud, Barbara</td>
<td>The President’s Daughter</td>
<td>Crown Publishers</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Historical Novel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chesnutt, Charles W.</td>
<td>Stories, Novels &amp; Essays</td>
<td>The Library of America</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>(Collection—Reissue and New)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childress, Alice</td>
<td>Rainbow Jordan</td>
<td>Avon Books</td>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Fiction (Plus any of her other works.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clarke, Breena</td>
<td>River, Cross My Heart</td>
<td>Little, Brown &amp; Co.</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cleage, Pearl</td>
<td>Some Things I Never Thought I’d Do</td>
<td>Ballantine Books</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I Wish I Had a Red Dress</td>
<td>William Morrow</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Brass Bend and Other Stories</td>
<td>Third World Press</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Poetry and Fiction</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Three Wishes</td>
<td>Doubleday</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Fiction (Children’s author. Plus any of her other works which in poetry for secondary and adult.)</td>
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**Out of print. Check at your local library.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher, Year</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Family</em>, Doubleday, 1992. Fiction (Plus any of her other works.)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Out of print. Check at your local library.**

Crouch, Stanley & Playthell Benjamin

Cunningham, Michael

Dance, Daryl Cumber
From My People: 400 Years of African American Folklore, W.W. Norton & Co., 2002. Folklore


Danticat, Edwidge


Datcher, Michael

Davis, Angela

Davis, Ossie

Davis, Ossie & Ruby Dee

Dawkins, Wayne


DeBerry, Virginia
Tryin’ to Sleep in the Bed You Made, St. Martin’s Press, 1997. Fiction

DeBerry, Virginia & Donna Grant

**Out of print. Check at your local library.**

Delaney, Sarah Louise & Annie Elizabeth Delaney


Dellums, Ronald V. & H. Lee Halterman


Delpit, Lisa

**The Skin That We Speak: Thoughts on Language and Culture in the Classroom**, The New Press, 2002. Essays


Derricotte. Toi


Dickerson, Debra J.


Douglass, Frederick


Dove, Rita


**Through the Ivory Gate: A Novel**, Random House, 1992. Fiction (Plus any of her other works.)

Draper, Sharon


**Tears of a Tiger**, Aladdin Paperbacks, 1996. Fiction

Dryden, Lt. Col. Charles W.


Due, Tananarive


Duke, Lynne


Dunbar, Paul Laurence


Dyson, Michael Eric


**Out of print. Check at your local library.**
Edelman, Marian Wright


Elders, Joycelyn


Ellison, Ralph (ed.)


Evans, Mari


Evers-Williams, Myrlie


Fales-Hill, Susan


Fisher, Antwone Quenton


Fleming, Robert


Forman, Ruth


Franklin, John Hope


**Out of print. Check at your local library.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Genre</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gabbin, Joanne V. (ed.)</td>
<td><em>Furious Flower: African American Poetry from the Black Arts Movement to the Present</em></td>
<td>University of Virginia Press</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gaines, Ernest</td>
<td><em>A Lesson Before Dying</em></td>
<td>Alfred Knopf</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Plus any of his other works.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Slave Narratives</em></td>
<td>The Library of America</td>
<td>2000</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Wonders of the African World</em></td>
<td>Alfred Knopf</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>History</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Colored People: A Memoir</em></td>
<td>Alfred Knopf</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Autobiography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gilyard, Keith</td>
<td><em>How I Figure</em></td>
<td>Whirlwind Press</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Liberation Memories: The Rhetoric and Poetics of John Oliver Killens</em></td>
<td>Wayne State University Press</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Criticism</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Poemographies</em></td>
<td>Whirlwind Press</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>American Forty</em></td>
<td>Eclipse III Press</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Poems</td>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gordon-Reed, Annette</td>
<td>Shimmy Shimmy Shimmy Like My Sister Kate: Looking at the Harlem Renaissance through Poems</td>
<td>Henry Holt &amp; Co.</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden, Marita</td>
<td>Racism 101</td>
<td>William Morrow &amp; Co.</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Essays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden, Marita</td>
<td>Saving Our Sons: Raising Black Children in a Turbulent World</td>
<td>Doubleday</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Essays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden, Marita &amp; E. Lynn Harris</td>
<td>Wild Women Don’t Wear No Blues</td>
<td>Doubleday</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Essays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gordon-Reed, Annette</td>
<td>Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemmings: An American Controversy</td>
<td>University Press of Virginia</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Non-Fiction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guy, Jasmine</td>
<td>Afeni Shakur: Evolution of a Revolutionary</td>
<td>Artia Books</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Biography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guy, Rosa</td>
<td>The Friends</td>
<td>Bantam Doubleday Dell</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gwaltney, John Langston</td>
<td>Drylongso: A Self-Portrait of Black America</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Non-Fiction**</td>
<td></td>
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**Out of print. Check at your local library.**
Hamilton, Virginia

Children/History

(Plus any of her other works.)

Harper, Michael S. (ed.)
& Anthony Walton


Harris, Juliette (ed.)
& Pamela Johnson


Hayden, Robert


Height, Dorothy


Higgins, Chester


Hill, Anita


Hill, Patricia (ed.)


Hine, Darlene Clark
& Kathleen Thompson


Holloway, Karla F.C.


Codes of Conduct: Race, Ethics, and the Color of Our Character, Rutgers University Press, 1995. Essays

hooks, bell


Hoskins, Michele


**Out of print. Check at your local library.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hudson, Cheryl (eds.) &amp; Wade Hudson</td>
<td><em>In Praise of Our Fathers &amp; Our Mothers: A Black Family Treasury by Outstanding Authors and Artists</em></td>
<td>Just Us Books</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Collection</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Selected Poems</em></td>
<td>Random House</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Poetry (Plus any of his other works.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunter, Kristin</td>
<td><em>God Bless the Child</em></td>
<td>Howard University Press</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Fiction (Plus any of her other works.)</td>
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<td>Hunter-Gault, Charlayne</td>
<td><em>In My Place</em></td>
<td>Farrar, Straus &amp; Giroux</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Memoir</td>
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<td>Hurston, Zora Neale</td>
<td><em>Their Eyes Were Watching God</em></td>
<td>HarperCollins</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Fiction (Plus any of her other works.)</td>
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<td>Jackson-Opoku, Sandra</td>
<td><em>The River Where Blood is Born</em></td>
<td>Ballantine Books</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
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<td>Jamison, Judith</td>
<td><em>Dancing Spirit</em></td>
<td>Doubleday</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Autobiography</td>
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<td>Johnson, Angela</td>
<td><em>Toning the Sweep</em></td>
<td>Scholastic</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Novel (Plus any of her other works.)</td>
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<td>Johnson, Charles</td>
<td><em>Dreamer: A Novel</em></td>
<td>Scribner</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
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</table>

**Out of print. Check at your local library.
Middle Passage, Dutton/New American Library, 1991. Fiction

Johnson, Charles & Patricia Smith

Johnson, James Weldon

Johnson-Feelings, Dianne (ed.)
The Best of the Brownies Book, Oxford University Press, 1996. (Original stories from The Brownies Books, a 1920’s magazine for African American children.)

Jones, Edward P.

Jones, Gayl
The Healing, Beacon Press, 1998. Fiction

Jones, Quincy

Jordan, June

Naming Our Destiny, Thunder Mouth Press, 1989. (Plus any of her other works.)

Jordan, Vernon E.

Kearney, Janis F.

Kelly, William Melvin
A Different Drummer, Doubleday, 1962. Fiction (Plus any of his other works.)**

Khan, Chaka

Kincaid, Jamaica


Lane, Pinkie Gordon

**Out of print. Check at your local library.
AARI Booklist—SEG/NCTE

Girls at the Window, Louisiana State University Press, 1991. Poetry (Plus any of her other works.)

Lattany, Kristin Hunter

(Plus any of her other works.)

Lawrence, Beverly Hall


Lawrence-Lightfoot, Sara


Lester, Julius

To Be A Slave, Scholastic, 1986. Non-Fiction

Louise, Regina


Madgett, Naomi Long


Octavia and Other Poems, Third World Press, 1992. Poetry

Madhubuti, Haki

Yellow Black: The First Twenty-One Years of a Poet’s Life, Third World Press, 2005. Memoir


Mandela, Nelson


**Out of print. Check at your local library.
<table>
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<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
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<tr>
<td>Marshall, Paule</td>
<td>The Fisher King</td>
<td>Scribner Publishing</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Daughters</td>
<td>Dutton/New American Library</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
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<td>Praisesong for the Widow</td>
<td>Dutton/New American Library</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
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<td>Massaquoi, Hans J.</td>
<td>Destined to Witness: Growing Up Black in Nazi Germany</td>
<td>William Morrow &amp; Co.</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Memoir</td>
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<td>Mathis, Deborah</td>
<td>Yet a Stranger: Why Black Americans Still Don’t Feel at Home</td>
<td>Warner Books</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Essays</td>
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<td>Mathis, Sharon Bell</td>
<td>Teacup Full of Roses</td>
<td>Puffin Books</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Young adult)**</td>
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<td>McKay, Claude</td>
<td>Selected Poems</td>
<td>Harcourt Brace Jovanovich</td>
<td>1969</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
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<td>McKissack, Patricia</td>
<td>Christmas in the Big House; Christmas in the Quarters</td>
<td>Scholastic</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Non-Fiction (Young Adult)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mirandy and Brother Wind</td>
<td>Alfred Knopf</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Plus any of her other works.)</td>
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<td>McKissack, Patricia</td>
<td>Rebels Against Slavery: American Slave Revolts</td>
<td>Scholastic</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>History</td>
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<td>&amp; Frederick L. McKissack</td>
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<td>McMillan, Terry</td>
<td>The Interruption of Everything</td>
<td>Viking Press</td>
<td>2005</td>
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<td>A Day Late and A Dollar Short</td>
<td>Viking Press</td>
<td>2001</td>
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<td>How Stella Got Her Groove Back</td>
<td>Viking Penguin</td>
<td>1996</td>
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<td>Waiting to Exhale</td>
<td>Viking Penguin</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
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<td>Disappearing Acts</td>
<td>Viking Penguin</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
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<td>McPherson, James Alan</td>
<td>A Region Not Home: Reflections from Exile</td>
<td>Simon &amp; Schuster</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Essays</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Out of print. Check at your local library.**
Medearis, Angela Shelf


Miller, E. Ethelbert


Moody, Anne


Morrison, Toni


*The Bluest Eye*, Dutton/Plume, 2000. Reprint

*The Big Box*, Hyperion Books, 1999. Fiction (First book for children.)


*Beloved*, Dutton/New American Library, 1991. Fiction (Plus any of her other works.)

Mosley, Walter


**Out of print. Check at your local library.**


Mullane, Deirdre


Murray, Pauli


Myers, Walter Dean


The Glory Field, Scholastic, 1994. Fiction (Young Adult)

Fallen Angels, Scholastic, 1989. Adult

Naylor, Gloria


Neely, Barbara


Nelson, Jill


(Plus any of her other works.)

Newkirk, Pamela


Nikuradse, Tamara (ed.)


**Out of print. Check at your local library.**
Obama, Barack


Ogletree, Jr., Charles J.


Oseye, Ebele

(aka Ellease Southerland)


Packer, Z.Z.


Page, Clarence


Painter, Nell Irvin


Parks, Gordon


Parks, Suzan-Lori


Pemberton, Gayle


Perry, Theresa

& Lisa Delpit


Petry, Ann


Pinkney, Gloria Jean

& Jerry Pinkney


Price, Hugh


**Out of print. Check at your local library.**
Proctor, Samuel Dewitt  

Rampersad, Arnold  


Randall, Dudley  

Reagon, Bernice Johnson  
*We’ll Understand It Better By and By: Pioneering African American Gospel Composers*, Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992. History

Redmond, Eugene B.  

Reed, Ishmael  

(Plus any of his other works.)

Reid, Margaret Ann  

Rhodes, Jewell Parker  


Rickford, Russell  

Robeson, Paul  

Robinson, Randall  

Rowan, Carl T.  

Royster, Jacqueline Jones  

**Out of print. Check at your local library.**
Sanchez, Sonia

*Like the Singing Coming off the Drums*, Beacon Press, 1999. Poetry

(Plus any of her other works.)

Shabass, Ilyasah


Shange, Ntozake

*If I Can Cook/You Know God Can*, Beacon Press, 1999. Memoir


Simone, Nina


Singley, Bernestine


Slade, Jr., Leonard A.


Smiley, Tavis


Smith, Jessie Carney


Smitherman, Geneva

(New revised edition)


**Out of print. Check at your local library.**
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southerland, Ellease</td>
<td><em>Let the Lion Eat Straw</em>, Charles Scribners Sons, 1980.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Fiction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tate, Eleanora</td>
<td><em>Front Porch Stories at the One-Room School</em>, Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1992. (Children’s author—Plus any of her other works.)</td>
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<td>Taylor, Mildred</td>
<td><em>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</em>, Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1984. Fiction (Young Adult)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas, Joyce Carol</td>
<td><em>Bright Shadow</em>, Avon Books, 1983. Fiction (Young Adult) (Plus any of her other works.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toomer, Jean</td>
<td><em>Cane</em>, W.W. Norton &amp; Co., 1987. Poetry</td>
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**Out of print. Check at your local library.**
Tutu, Desmond


Wade-Gayles, Gloria


Walker, Alice


*By The Light of My Father’s Smile*, Random House, 1998. Fiction


*The Color Purple*, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1982. Fiction (Plus any of her other works.)

Walker, Margaret

*This Is My Century*, University of Georgia Press, 1989. Poetry


Walker, Lewis & Ben C. Wilson


Washington, James Melvin


Washington, Mary Helen


West, Cornel


West, Dorothy


**Out of print. Check at your local library.**
Whitehead, Colson  

Wickham, DeWayne  
*Bill Clinton and Black America*, Ballantine Books, 2002. History/Interviews


Wideman, John Edgar  

Williams, John A.  

Williams, Patricia J.  


Williams, Shirley A.  

Williams-Garcia, Rita  
*Like Sisters on the Homefront*, Puffin Books, 1995. (Young Adult—Plus any of her other works.)

Worley, Demetrice A. & Jesse Perry  

Wright, Richard  

Yarbrough, Camille  
*The Shimmershine Queens*, Alfred Knopf, 1990. Fiction (Young Adult)

Yette, Samuel F.  

**Out of print. Check at your local library.**

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